

1840

William Fleming built a house on Liberty Street near Wolf Creek.

Note:

William Fleming was the first storekeeper in Pine Grove and became the first Postmaster of the Wolf Creek Post Office. The post office was named Wolf Creek because another post office in Pennsylvania had previously been named Pine Grove.

In c1853 the House was acquired by William A. Young who purchased James Tidball's tannery located behind the house. (See 1881)



The Census of 1840 recorded two black families as residents in Wolf Creek.

Note:

The early censuses of 1800 and 1810 only recorded free white persons. (See Background Section) The census of 1820 indicates there were no black persons, free or slaves, listed in Wolf Creek Township. The 1830 census lists the names of slave owners and the number of slaves as well as the number of male and female slaves, and free "colored" persons. This census could not be located.

The first census that could be researched that included black residents was that of 1840. This census listed:

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b. males - one under ten years of age;
two between 24 and 35 years of age;
and one between 36 and 54 years.

b. females - six under 10 years of age;
two between 19 and 23 years of age;
and one between 36 and 54 years.

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b. males - four under 10 year of age;
two between 19 and years of age; and
one between 24 and 35 years.

b. females - one between 24 and 35
years.

1841

On March 3, 1841, James A. Gilmore was born in Lackawannock Township.

Note:

James' grandfather, John Gilmore, settled in Pine Township, and operated Gilmore's Mills on Indian Run. James was raised on a farm in Pine Township.

He enlisted in Company H during the Civil War. After the war, he attended college, worked as a bookkeeper, and taught school. Later he purchased and operated a farm near Grove City.

Gilmore became a major real estate dealer in the area and was active politically. He was elected Clerk of Courts in 1866.

1842

The Black's Run Methodist Episcopal Church (now the Grace United Methodist Church) was organized.

Note:

The Black's Run Methodist Episcopal Church was formed by the combination of the Pine Grove and Wolf Creek groups with Hiram Luce as Pastor. The church met in J. T. Hirst's barn on Black's Run north of the city.

In 1843, a one-room church was built on the site of the Methodist Cemetery north of town and was called Wolf Creek Church. In 1880, the name was changed to Pine Grove Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1883-84, a brick church was built on the corner of East Pine and Grace Streets. In 1884, a parsonage was added at 124 East Pine Street.

In 1908, a new brick church was erected in front of the 1883 Church at the corner of Broad and East Pine Streets. In 1908, the name was again changed to Grove City: Grace.

In 1926, the educational building was erected on the site of the 1883 church.

Over the years, the facility was remodeled several times.

In 1939, when the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church merged nationally. At that time, the name was changed to the Grace Methodist Church.

Then in 1968, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged nationally and the name was changed to the Grace United Methodist Church of Grove City.

The Presbyterian Church (now the Tower Presbyterian Church) was established on February 7, 1842 with thirteen original members.

Note:

The early services were held in the school, large barns, and private dwellings.

Charles Cunningham donated land on Broad Street for a building around 1847. A church was built in 1857. The church remained unfinished for several years with no ceiling, loose floorboards, and no pews. Seating was provided by simple slabs supported at each end by logs.

In February 1864, Rev. W. T. Dickson became the first pastor of the church, a half time position.

A second church was built in 1878 was built near the first church on the corner of South Broad and West Main Streets

In 1925, the Tower Church was built at 248 South Broad Street. After the church moved to the new building continued to be used for Sunday school rooms.

1843

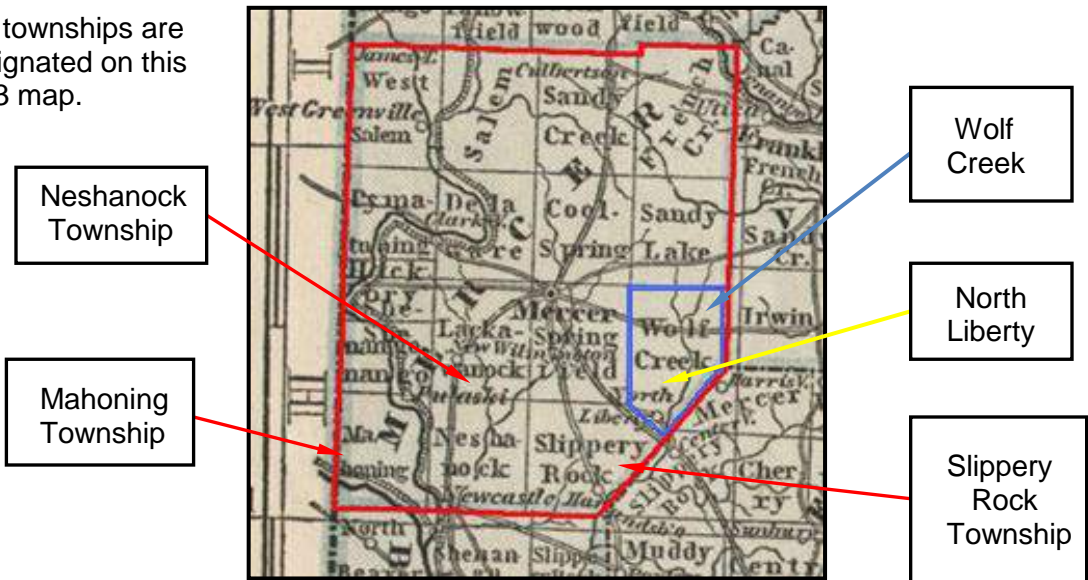
This 1843 Map of Mercer County shows the development Mercer County before the creation of Lawrence County (1849).

Note:

Only North Liberty is identified as a community in Wolf Creek Township.

Pine Grove does not appear on maps until c1850.

The townships are Designated on this 1843 map.



In Day's 1843, "History of Mercer County" Pine Grove is not mentioned.

Note:

Mercer, New Castle, West Greenville, Sharon, Pulaski, Georgetown (now Sheakleyville), and New Bedford are mentioned.

Georgetown is described as:

Georgetown is a new and neat village, on a small branch of Sandy cr., 15 miles north of Mercer by the turnpike. It contains Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian churches.

1844

In c1844, James G. and Charles Cunningham laid out a town that became known as Pine Grove on the land originally settled by Valentine.

Note:

James G. and Charles Cunningham were Valentine Cunningham's sons.

Records indicate the Cunninghams returned to the area and laid out this plan. The date they left the area could not be found. In addition, dates vary on when the Cunninghams returned to the area and laid out Pine Grove. Some are as early as 1834; another account dates as late as 1848.

The name Pine Grove is believed to have originated from a cluster of pine trees that stood near the early school building.

William H. Morrow built the first house after the plan was developed.

The Wolf Creek Post Office was established on July 11.

Note:

The post office was named the Wolf Creek Post Office because a Pine Grove post office was already in existence in Pennsylvania. It was located in the William Young House on Liberty Street.

William Fleming was the first Postmaster of the Wolf Creek..

1845

Context:

On December 28, 1846, Iowa became the 29th state.

On May 13, 1846, the United States declared war against Mexico beginning the Mexican-American War.

On February 2, 1848, Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ceding Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California to the United States

On May 29, 1848, Wisconsin became the 30th state.

1849

In 1849, a southern portion of Mercer County was ceded in the formation of Lawrence County.

Note:

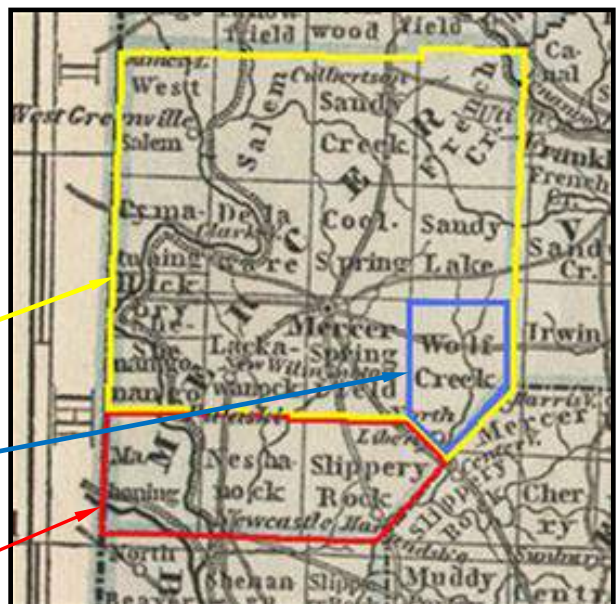
The bill creating Lawrence County was signed by Governor William F. Johnston on March 20, 1849. The act established the name as Lawrence and the county seat as New Castle. Mahoning, Slippery Rock, and Neshannock Townships, as well as the towns of New Castle, New Bedford, Harlansburg, Edinburg Wilmington, Hillsburg and Pulaski were located within this land area.

The area ceded was about nineteen square miles or 231,040 acres. One fourth of the population of Mercer County (according to the census, 21,079 including 132 “colored” lived in this area).

Because of this action, Wolf Creek bordered on Lawrence County.

The map below indicates the new borders created. Mercer County is outlined in yellow. The land ceded to Lawrence County is outlined in red. Wolf Creek Township is outlined in blue.

- Mercer County
- Wolf Creek Township
- Area ceded to become Lawrence County



Springfield Township was established.

David C. and Mary (Waddle) Craig moved to Pine Grove. David worked as a cabinetmaker.

Note:

The Craigs, originally from Pennsylvania, had moved to Iowa in 1844; they returned to Mercer County in 1848. In 1849, they located in Grove City.

They had four sons: Reynolds C. who became a merchant in Grove City; Francis Marion who was killed in the Civil War at the battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia (See 1861); Joseph A; and Alfred M.